GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5417
ANSWERED ON:15.05.2007
FOREIGN NATIONALS
Chowdhury Shri Adhir Ranjan;Mondal Shri Abu Ayes;Nikhil Kumar Shri

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of foreign nationals staying after the expiry of their visas in the country is causing concern;

(b) if so, the facts thereof and the details in this regard, State-wise and country-wise;

(c) whether such foreign nationals have also involved in criminal activities in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to check the activities of such foreign nationals in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL)

(a) to (e): Instances of foreigners who tend to stay beyond their visa validity and thereby overstay are detected by Foreigners' Regional Registration Officers (FRROs)/ Foreigners' Registration Officers (FROs). Since the foreigners who are not required to stay more than 180 days at one visit do not register, overstayal is generally detected only at the time of their exit. Detection and deportation of overstaying foreigners is a continuous process. Powers to detect and deport foreign nationals staying illegally in India have been delegated to the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations under Section 3(2)(c) of the Foreigners Act, 1946. Furthermore, appropriate action is also taken to prevent re-entry into the country of such undesirable foreigners. The foreigners involved in criminal activities are dealt with by the law enforcement agencies in accordance with laws of the land. Data regarding prosecution and conviction of such overstaying foreigners is not maintained centrally.